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California Integrated Waste Management Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and Department of General Services (DGS)

DATE: May 23, 2005

The CIWMB and DGS are pleased to announce an effort to establish an environmentally preferable product standard for printing cartridges. The CIWMB and DGS have joined forces with other state agencies to form the Environmentally Preferable Product (EPP) Task Force. Through the work of the EPP Task Force, the State is beginning to increase its purchases of EPPs due to the many benefits each purchases offer throughout their life cycle. The attached diagram illustrates the draft policy objectives within five categories that the EPP Task Force will be considering in their pursuit of establishing EPP standards.

To this end, the EPP Task Force is interested in establishing an EPP standard for printer cartridges. The standard could be used to determine cartridges that are compliant with affirmative EPP procurement programs, including potentially giving compliance credit for the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC).

CIWMB staff is looking for comments and suggestions for performance or environmental standards that could be used as an EPP standard for printer cartridges. It is extremely important that the standard provide an easy and effective benchmark to readily identify EPP cartridges. Currently, the Public Contract Code (PCC) offers four benchmarks to determine an EPP cartridge:

- 1) a cartridge for which the manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or remanufacturer places no restriction on the recycling or remanufacturing of that cartridge by any other person (Public Contract Code, Section 12156).
- 2) a cartridge containing a minimum of 50 percent recycled-content plastic, of which, at least 10 percent is postconsumer plastic (Public Contract Code, Section 12200).
- 3) a cartridge, that could have been disposed of as solid waste having completed its life cycle as a consumer item, but otherwise is refurbished for reuse (remanufactured, restored, renovated, repaired, or recharged) without substantial alteration of its form (Public Contract Code, Section 12156).

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- 4) a cartridge that would otherwise become solid waste, but which has undergone a process of collecting, sorting, cleansing, treating, or reconstituting, and which has been returned for the manufacture of new products or the remanufacture of used cartridges (Public Contract Code, Section 12156).

With this existing law, it is hoped the EPP standard for printer cartridges will follow this language, but with the realization that even these benchmarks will need further definition and clarification. Therefore, we encourage you to participate in this effort and send your comments and suggestions in conjunction with the attached proposed schedule for the process. Feel free to distribute this letter to parties that you consider interested in this effort. At this point any comments or suggestions you would like to express will be greatly appreciated.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to:

Mr. Fareed Ferhut,
Integrated Waste Management Specialist
Buy Recycled Section
CIWMB
P.O. Box 4025, MS-12
Sacramento, CA 95812

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this effort, please contact Mr. Ferhut at fferhut@ciwmb.ca.gov or (916) 341-6482. Thank you for your interest in this effort.

Sincerely,

Mark Leary, Executive Director

Attachment

cc: Ron Joseph, DGS
Rita Hamilton, DGS
Dan Burgoyne, DGS
Marnell Voss, DGS

Patty Wohl, CIWMB
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Jerry Hart, CIWMB
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